

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office action mailed on September 7, 2006. This paper cancels claim 31 and amends claims 1, 6, 16, 27 and 42. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-13, 16-24, 27-30, 32-35, 42-44 and 48 will be pending.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to an alleged lack of clarity between the surface limitation set out in lines 7-8 and 9-10. Accordingly, without narrowing the scope, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly set out the relationship between the first port and the channel between the blower and surface, and to set out the airflow path between the shroud and the second port. As amended herein, it is now believed that claims 1-5 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are in form for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

All pending claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,066 to Kitajo (hereafter "Kitajo"). For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose all elements of the independent claims, as amended, and therefore cannot anticipate the independent claims.

First, with respect to amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose the limitation of "the first port aligned with the impeller axis." Both ports of the Kitajo device are essentially perpendicular to the axis of the centrifugal fan. Further, Kitajo does not disclose or suggest "air flowing into the first port flows through a channel formed between the blower and the surface" as set out in claim 1. Air in and out of the Kitajo ports does not flow through a channel defined between the blower and the surface. Thus, for at least these reasons, Kitajo cannot anticipate claim 1.

Second, with respect to claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose the limitations of "the first port is located above at least one of the one more electronic components" and does not disclose the limitation of "the first port . . . aligned with the axis [of the impeller]." Neither of the ports of the Kitajo device are above the electronic components and neither port is aligned with the axis of the fan. Thus for at least these reasons, Kitajo cannot anticipate claim 6.

Third, with respect to claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose the limitation of "a second port arranged generally perpendicular to a first port."

Both ports of Kitajo are aligned (in the sidewalls) and thus cannot be perpendicular to each other. Thus, for at least this reason, Kitajo cannot anticipate claim 16.

Fourth, with respect to claim 27, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose the limitation of "wherein the blower is oriented such that the first port faces the surface so that air flowing across the first port flows between the blower and the surface." Neither port of Kitajo is arranged such that the port faces the surface as set out in claim 27. Thus, for at least this reason, Kitajo cannot anticipate claim 27.

Finally, with respect to claim 42, it is respectfully submitted that Kitajo does not disclose the limitation of "air flowing through the second port is generally parallel with the axis of impeller rotation." The air flow through the Kitajo device is generally transverse or perpendicular to the axis of fan rotation, not generally parallel. Thus, for at least this reason, Kitajo cannot anticipate claim 42.

All of the remaining claims depend from one of the above-recited independent claims and are thus patentable over Kitajo for at least the same reasons as the corresponding independent claims.

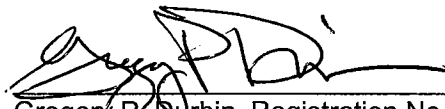
III. Conclusion

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a two-month extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 in the amount of \$450.00, for two-month extension of time fee. The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: 12 JAN 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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